

Remarks

Claims 11 to 32 are in this application.

Attached herewith is a fresh Declaration by the Inventor as requested.

Claims 11 to 19 remain in the application pending allowance of a generic claim. Of note, applicant did not previously indicate that claims 11 to 19 are readable on the elected species of Figs. 1 to 3.

Note is made of the request for headings in the specification. However, since there is no Statute or Rule which requires the use of headings, none have been added. In any event, the format suggested for an application has been followed.

Claims 1 to 10 have been withdrawn without prejudice in view of the objection to the claims as not conforming with the provisions of 35 USC 112.

A Form PTO 1449 is being submitted herewith listing the references cited in the description, the references from prior Search Reports and from a more recent German Patent Offices Search Report.

New claim 21 replaces original claims 1 and 2 that had been rejected as being unpatentable over the admitted prior art in view of Goetz.

Goetz describes an apparatus having a web roll feeding station 2, a roll preparing station 4, a loading station 6 and a feeding apparatus 8. As described in Goetz, new supply rolls 14 are supplied on their roll axes to a position suitable for the splicing of the web. (column 3, lines 32 to 36) The rolls 14 are first taken in by the roll feed station 2, where they are set down in pairs and rolled down a slightly inclined ramp 58 as soon as they are released by retractable chocks 60. At the foot of the ramp 58, the roll feeding station 2 has a horizontal turntable 64 into which a small, rail-guided carrying car 66 can enter and by which the axes of web supply rolls can be turned by precisely 90°. The turn supply rolls are brought by the car 66 to successive positions of the roll preparing section 4. There they are lifted from the supporting rollers 68 and the car 66 returns to the roll feeding station 2. The raised rolls are then turned about their respective axes by means of supporting roller 68 to the position suitable for the later web splicing operation. The rolls 14 are successively prepared and carried by an additional small car 70 from the roller preparation section 4 to a horizontal turntable 72 in loading station 6 where axes are again rotated by 90° (column 4, lines 3 to 7).

As illustrated in Fig. 2, the turntables 64, 72 rotate in opposite directions relative to each other. As a result, the unwinding direction of the rolls in the feeding apparatus 8 is the same as in the feeding station 2.

New claim 21 is directed to a method of conveying loud laps comprising the steps of, inter alia, "sequentially rotating each wound lap. . . 180° to reverse a winding off direction of the web on the tube thereof". Goetz does not describe or teach such a step. Furthermore, Goetz rotates a roll by 90° into spaced apart separate steps. Accordingly, a rejection of claim 21 as being unpatentable over the admitted prior art in view of Goetz is not warranted pursuant to the provisions of 35 USC 103.

Claim 21 further recites the steps of "producing a series of wound laps. . . each . . . having a web wound onto a tube about a longitudinal axes of the tube; . . . delivering each wound lap. . . onto a conveyer belt extending in a direction parallel to said axes. . .". As illustrated in Fig. 2 of Goetz, the rolls 14 in the feeding station 2 are perpendicular to the conveyer of the feeding apparatus 8.

Claim 21 further requires the steps of "thereafter spacing the wound laps. . . in equally-spaced relation along said conveyor belt; and conveying the wound laps. . . in stepwise manner longitudinally of said axes. . .". Again, Goetz does not describe or teach such steps. In this regard, note is made that the axes of each roll is perpendicular to the conveying direction on the conveyor of the feeding apparatus 8.

In view of the above, claim 21 is believed to be further allowable over the references of record pursuant to the provisions of 35 USC 103.

Claims 22 and 23 depend from claim 21 and are believed to be allowable for similar reasons.

New claim 24 replaces claim 5 that had been rejected as being unpatentable over the admitted prior art in view of Goetz and Boehm.

Boehm describes an arrangement with a device for receiving coils from an overhead conveyor. This device has six coil handling arms which can be placed in an upwardly inclined loading position to dump five coils successively from hooks of the overhead conveyor. The coil unloader is a device for accumulating or storing a group or bank of coils and not for wound laps in a plane transverse to its longitudinal axes. Boehm describes that the stored coils on the coil unloader can be removed by other means (see column 1, lines

19 to 26). There is no teaching in Boehm that would motivate one of ordinary skill in the art to use the described device for rotating a wound lap in a plane transverse to its longitudinal axes to change an unwinding direction. Further, there is no teaching to form a group of coils in which the face sides of adjacent coils are equally spaced.

Claim 24 is directed to an apparatus comprising "a conveyor belt for receiving a series of wound laps in equally-spaced relation for intermittent travel along a common longitudinal axes, each of said wound laps having a tube disposed in parallel to said common longitudinal axes; a rotatable shaft disposed perpendicularly of said conveyor belt. . . . at least two receiving means mounted on opposite sides of said shaft, each. . . being positioned to engage within said tube of a wound lap. . . and to rotate the engaged wound lap at least 90° onto said conveyor belt. . .". Neither the admitted prior art, Goetz or Boehm describes or teaches such a structure taken alone or in combination. For example, Goetz relies upon a rail guided carrying car and turntable to rotate a roll 14.

In view of the above, claim 24 is believed to be allowable over the references of record pursuant to the provisions of 35 USC 102 and 103.

Note is made of the Examiner's allegation that the inclined ramp 62 of Boehm would not be needed if the rolls being delivered were the same level as the apparatus. Issue is taken in this respect as can be seen in Fig. 4 of Boehm, the coil carrying hook 77 of the overhead conveyor is pivoted so that a coil slides off the hook 77 onto a coil handling arm 50 of the unloader. Thus, Boehm is directed to a coil unloader that operates on a principal of gravity. If the overhead conveyor hook 77 were the same level as the arm 50 of the unloader, a coil could not move under gravity from the hook 77 to the arm 50.

Claims 25 to 29 depend from claim 24 and are believed to be allowable for similar reasons.

Claim 20 has been rejected as being unpatentable over the admitted prior art in view of Goetz. Issue is taken in this respect.

Claim 20 is directed to a combination of a preparatory machine for sequentially delivering wound laps, each wound lap having a longitudinal axes; a conveying belt disposed transversely of said preparatory machine . . . and means located between said preparatory machine and said conveyor for sequentially rotating each wound lap at least 90°. . . and conveying each. . . from said preparatory machine onto said conveyor in co-

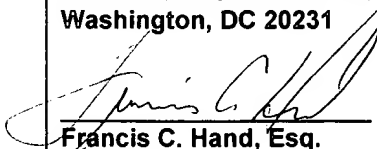
axially equally-spaced apart relation." Goetz does not describe or teach such a structure. As noted above, the rolls of Goetz in the feeding apparatus 8 are disposed transversely of the conveyor and not co-axially. Further, the conveyor of the feeding apparatus 8 of Goetz is not disposed transversely of the roll feeding station 2. Accordingly, a rejection of claim 20 as being unpatentable over the admitted prior art in view of Goetz is not warranted pursuant to the provisions of 35 USC 103.

Claims 30 to 32 depends from claim 20 and are believed to be allowable for similar reasons. Further, claim 31 is directed to a specific means including "a rotatable shaft disposed perpendicularly of said conveying belt. . . and at least two receiving means mounted on opposite sides of said shaft. . . to engage a wound lap. . . and to rotate the engaged wound lap at least 180° onto said conveying belt . . .". None of the references describes or teaches such a structure. Accordingly, claim 31 is believed to be further allowable over the references of record pursuant to the provisions of 35 USC 102 and 103.

With the allowance of generic claim 20, claims 11 to 19 are believed to be examinable in this application.

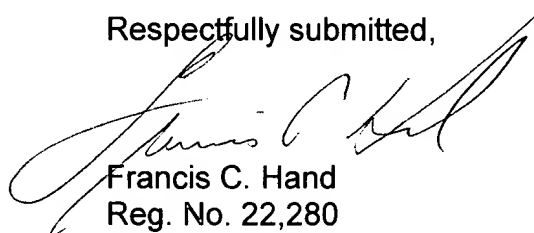
Copies of the references listed in Form PTO 1449 are enclosed herewith.

The application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such is respectfully requested.

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited today with the U.S. Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents Washington, DC 20231	
 Francis C. Hand, Esq.	<u>6-6-2003</u> Date

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Respectfully submitted,



Francis C. Hand
Reg. No. 22,280
CARELLA, BYRNE BAIN, GILFILLAN,
CECCHI, STEWART & OLSTEIN
Six Becker Farm Road
Roseland, NJ 07068
Phone: 973-994-1700
Fax: 973-994-1744